

Many people do not realize that food and agriculture is Ohio's biggest industry worth \$73 billion to our economy with one out of every six people involved in getting our more than 200 crops from farm to table. According to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 99% of Ohio's 78,000 farms are family farms.

In the 9th Congressional District, we are home to leading segments of [Ohio's greenhouse industry](#). We produce major commodities such as corn, wheat and soybeans, as well as fruits, vegetables, beef, pork and dairy products.

Agriculture is also one of the most rapidly changing fields of business. We are developing an even healthier and safer food supply. We are expanding marketing opportunities through additional direct farmer to consumer sales. And we are developing new products like biofuels to help break our addiction to foreign oil, and nutraceuticals that can give us medicines from plants.

It is our responsibility to assist with rural development, marketing opportunities, research and extension, domestic and international food assistance, as well as oversight of the Food and Drug Administration, while making sure that the limited resources available for these programs are well spent.